

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 /049 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1298  
INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 5105

STATE FOR ARA/ECA

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT: SOMOS MAGAZINE INTERVIEW WITH EX AMBASSADOR HILL

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5038

WEEKLY MAGAZINE SOMOS (77,000 CIRCULATION) IN JULY 8 ISSUE  
HAS FOLLOW-UP STORY ON ALBERTO OLIVA'S INTERVIEW WITH EX-AMBASSADOR  
HILL, PUBLISHED IN THE JULY 7 ISSUE OF GENTE (BOTH MAGAZINES  
ARE PRODUCED BY EDITORIAL ATLANTIDA). TWO-PAGE STORY HAS HILL  
PHOTO AT HIS NEW HAMPSHIRE HOME, TALKING WITH INTERVIEWER ALBERTO  
OLIVA. ALSO PHOTO OF ARIZONA GOVERNOR RAUL CASTRO SHOWN  
ALONGSIDE HILL'S WITH CAPTION READING, "ONE OF THE STRONGEST  
CANDIDATES TO OCCUPY POSITION AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN  
BUENOS AIRES, RAUL CASTRO, SEEMS TO HAVE LOST ALL POSSIBILITIES  
AFTER A RECENT STATEMENT THAT WAS NOT WELL RECEIVED BY THE U.S.  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE." ARTICLE TITLE "HILL'S CHAIR REMAINS  
EMPTY." INTRODUCTORY NOTE READS, "THE EX-AMBASSADOR OF THE U.S.  
IN BUENOS AIRES, ROBER HILL, STATES HIS OPINION TO SOMOS

REGARDING HIS COUNTRY'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. IT WAS THE CRITICAL,  
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SHAPR, ANALYSIS OF A MAN WHO STUDIED THE ARGENTINE PROBLEM CLOSELY.  
IN THE MEANTIME, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS YET TO DESIGNATE  
HILL'S SUCCESSOR AND ONE OF THE CANDIDATES, ARIZONA GOVERNOR  
RAUL CASTRO, SEEMS TO HAVE LOST HIS CHANCE FOR THE APPOINTMENT."

THE PIECE FOCUSES ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S PROBLEM IN  
SELECTING A NEW U.S.AMBASSADOR TO ARGENTINA. HILL SUMMARIZED  
HIS OPINION OF CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS STAND AS FOLLOWS: "JIMMY

CARTER'S OBJECTIVE REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS IS PRAISEWORTHY, BUT THE FOCUS IS INCORRECT, ESPECIALLY IN REGARDS TO ARGENTINA. IT CONSTITUTES A DIRECT INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A COUNTRY. IF THE NEW GOVERNMENT THOROUGHLY UNDERSTOOD THE TERRORISM PROBLEM CAUSED BY THE MONTONEROS AND THE ERP, MARXIST OR PRO-COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS, IT WOULD BE LESS INCLINED TO INTERFERE." SOMOS EMPHASIZES THAT THIS DISCREPANCY OF OPINION WAS THE MAIN REASON BEHIND HILL'S DEMAND TO HAVE HIS RESIGNATION ACCEPTED IMMEDIATELY. OLIVA THEN COMMENTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S DELAYS IN ACCEPTING HILL'S RESIGNATION AND IN ASSIGNING A SUCCESSOR, PLUS THE CRITICISMS TOWARDS CARTER'S POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA MADE BY HILL AND ONE OF HIS PROBABLE REPLACEMENT - RAUL CASTRO - ARE "CLEAR INDICATIONS OF THE INCONGUENTIES AND DISCREPACIES ON THE PART OF OFFICIALS IN THE U.S. FOREIGN SERVICE."

WHILE HILL WAS EXPOUNDING HIS VIEWS ON THIS MATTER, ADDS OLIVA "FAR AWAY FROM LITTLETON, IN THE CITY OF SONORA, RAUL CASTRO, PRESENT GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA, OBVIOUSLY UNAWARE OF HILL'S STATEMENTS, CONFESSED TO THE LOCAL PRESS HE WAS BEING SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED TO OCCUPY THE VACANCY AT THE BUENOS AIRES EMBASSY. CASTRO, UNWILLINGLY, HIT A SORE SPOT WHEN EXPRESSING HIS OPINION REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA: (HE SAID) 'AS FAR AS I KNOW, NO SUCH PROBLEM EXISTS THERE.'

"THOUGH THERE HASN'T YET BEEN ANY ANNOUNCEMENT IN FAVOR OR AGAINST CASTRO'S NOMINATION, THIS STATEMENT WAS INTERPRETED IN WASHINGTON AS A NEGATIVE FACTOR AGAINST HIS APPOINTMENT TO UNCLASSIFIED

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BUENOS AIRES, SINCE IT IMPLIES A LATENT DISAGREEMENT WITH THE PRESENT CARTER POLICY.

"HILL AND CASTRO'S ATTITUDES, WITHOUT BEING COINCIDENT, PLANNED OR MUTUALLY CONSULTED, EXEMPLIFY THE RESISTENCE OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS TO CARRYING OUT A POLICY BASED ON EMOTIONAL AND SUPPOSEDLY ETHICAL STANDS RATHER THAN ON IDEOLOGICAL BELIEFS."

IN THE MEANTIME, CONCLUDES THE ARTICLE, "THE APPOINTMENT OF A SUCCESSOR TO HILL'S JOB REMAINS AN ENIGMA; ALTHOUGH THE POSSIBILITY OF NAMING A CAREER DIPLOMAT IS BEING CONSIDERED (THE NAME OF SHALAUDEMAN, PRESENT AMBASSADOR TO PERU HAS BEEN MENTIONED). YET THERE IS EVERY INDICATION THAT ONLY A POLITICAL APPOINTEE COULD IMPLEMENT CARTER'S PHILOSOPHY WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS OF CONSCIENCE."

HILL OBSERVES A BASIC "AMBIVALENCE" STEMMING FROM THE WHITE HOUSE; A POLICY THAT "CHASTISES TRADITIONAL FRIENDS WHILE TRYING TO OVERLOOK HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ENEMY COUNTRIES LIKE CUBA."

HILL AGAIN (AS IN GENTE ARTICLE) CRITICIZED THE U.S. PRESS FOR ITS COVERAGE OF ARGENTINA. HE SAID THAT "EX-FOREIGN MINISTER GUZZETTI WAS SHOT AND ALMOST LOST HIS LIFE, YET AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS LIMITED THE STORY TO FOUR OR FIVE LINES, AS IF IT

WERE A MINOR INCIDENT. WHY DIDN'T ANYONE TALK ABOUT GUZETTI'S  
HUMAN RIGHTS? I WONDER."  
COPIES OF INTERVIEW BEING FORWARDED BY POUCH TO ARA/ECA.  
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## Message Attributes

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